

SENATOR BARRETT: That is one of the reasons for the bill, Senator Higgins. The bill comes to me from the Nebraska State Patrol which has had, apparently, a lot of problems in getting the information that they so badly needed when motor vehicle theft or fraud was suspected. And the patrol has asked the insurance industry to cooperate with them and therein lies the purpose for LB 78. Both the insurance industry and the law enforcement agencies in the state are highly in sympathy with the bill, helped draft the bill and that's one of the reasons. Your question prompted that response.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Barrett. I can see the highway patrol wanting all the information they can get and since we have just switched 11 people from the Liquor Commission to the highway patrol to do their investigating, it would sound to me like the highway patrol hasn't got enough work to do that they want to go work for the insurance companies. At least that is the way I view it. And we're not only talking about the highway patrol. If you read the bill or the amendment that is the bill, we're including your little county sheriff where you have maybe a hundred people in that county and your local police force. I think today insurance companies do report to the police fraudulent claims. I know that if I called my insurance agent today and said, hey, my car was stolen, the first thing they will say to me is, have you reported it to the local law enforcement, to the sheriff if you live in the county, or to the police if you live in the city? And they won't touch that claim until I have reported it. Why? Because the insurance companies believe that if the police get involved, I'm less likely to report a stolen vehicle which I really had my cousin Charlie take to his house in Kansas City. So they won't touch a claim until it is reported to the police and once it is reported to the police, they have to investigate it as a stolen vehicle. So, I really wonder what is going to be so different under this other than that Section 8 which Senator Ashford wants to strike whereby we give insurance companies total immunity from making any kind of mistake. I can tell you this, Senators, from practical experience. In my years as a licensed insurance agent my staff and I spent more time sending back incorrect insurance policies and endorsements than we did in processing the ones that came in every day.

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. We spent half of our time correcting errors and if we did that on endorsements and on